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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

CAMPFIRES RESTRICTED IN PRINCE GEORGE FIRE CENTRE

PRINCE GEORGE – Effective at noon July 4, and until further notice, Category 1 open fires (including campfires) are banned at all elevations of the Prince George Fire Centre, which includes the communities of Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Mackenzie, McBride, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson.

"Right now, our firefighting crews are battling 130 wildfires across the Northeast," said Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman. "The hot temperatures and dry weather are making that job very difficult and dangerous. That's why we're asking the public to not have any campfires for the time being – the risk of a campfire escaping or reigniting is just too high."

All other open burning, including backyard (Category 2) and industrial pile burning (Category 3), continues to be restricted across the Prince George Fire Centre. The intent of these restrictions is to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused wildfires.

Category 1 open fire restrictions prohibit the use of open fires that burn piled material less than one metre high and one metre wide and include campfires that burn such material. The restriction does not apply to stoves that use liquid or gaseous fuel, or briquettes, manufactured for the purpose of heating or cooking.

Open fire restrictions apply to lands outside of municipal boundaries and regional districts that have open fire bylaws. Please check with local authorities before lighting fires within organized areas. This restriction also applies within BC Parks, unless otherwise specified. For a complete list of BC Parks affected by this Category 1 open fire restriction, please visit www.bcparks.ca.

The Prince George Fire Centre (PGFC) covers the eastern portion of the Northern Interior Forest Region and the extreme northern portion of the Southern Interior Forest Region, which extends from the Yukon and Northwest Territories in the North to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Cottonwood River and Robson Valley in the South; and from the Alberta border in the East to the Skeena Mountains in the West.

If you see a wildfire, please report it to 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks. For more information on open fire restrictions or for updates on current wildfire activity, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect.

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